

Appl. No. : 09/577,449
Filed : May 24, 2000

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

- a'
1. (Original) A method, comprising:
obtaining information about a biometric part of a user's body; and
forming a cryptographic key based on said biometric information without determining absolute dimensions of said biometric information.
 2. (Original) A method as in claim 1 wherein said forming comprises determining ratios between different portions of said biometric information.
 3. (Original) A method as in claim 1 further comprising entering a plurality of different biometric features in a sequence, an order of the sequence forming the code.
 4. (Original) A method as in claim 1 further comprising entering information that is supplemental to the biometric information, the supplemental information indicating parts of the biometric information which should be used to form the code.
 5. (original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said biometric part is a fingerprint.

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6. (Original) A method as in claim 4 wherein the supplemental information includes an angle of a line used to obtain the information.

a! 7. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
entering biometric information;

determining at least one relationship [[relationships]] between different parts of the biometric information, where said relationship includes a ratio between different parts of an image; and

using said [[relationships]] at least one relationship to form a cryptographic key.

8. (Original) A method as in claim 7 further comprising using said cryptographic key to encrypt or decrypt information.

9. Cancelled.

10. (Original) A method as in claim 8 wherein said biometric information comprises a sequence of different items of biometric information which are pieced together to form a code that is dependent both on the pieces of the biometric information and on the sequence.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a biometric information obtaining part;

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a computer;

wherein said computer is responsive to obtain an image from the biometric information part, extract values from the biometric information part, and use said values to encrypt or decrypt a message, and wherein said computer obtains a plurality of different biometric information parts, and wherein both the content of the information parts and a sequence of entry of the information parts, forms the code.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently amended) An apparatus as in claim [[12]] 11 wherein the information is formed by relationships between different parts of an image of the biometric information.

14. (Original) A fingerprint sensor, comprising:
an image sensor chip forming a plurality of pixels for sensing an image, said chip having an active surface which receives said image, said active surface adapted to receive a finger thereon to obtain a fingerprint therefrom and produce an output indicative of the fingerprint.

15. (Original) A sensor as in claim 14 further comprising a computer part, connected to said image sensor, receiving said output, and using said output to form a cryptographic key.

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16. (Original) A method as in claim 15 wherein said cryptographic key is formed from a relationship between different parts of the image.

a! 17. (Original) A method, comprising:
obtaining information about a plurality of biometric parts of a user's body;
forming a cryptographic key based on said information using both the plurality of parts and a sequence of entry of the plurality of parts; and
using said cryptographic key to one of encrypt or decrypt a message.

18. (Original) A method as in claim 17 wherein said forming comprises determining ratios between different portions of said biometric information.

19. (Original) A method as in claim 17 further comprising entering information that is supplemental to the biometric information, the supplemental information indicating parts of the biometric information which should be used to form the code.

20. (Original) A method as in claim 17, wherein said biometric part is a fingerprint.

21. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 19 wherein the supplemental information includes an angle of a line ~~used to obtain the information~~
along which biometric information is sampled.

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a 22. (Original) A method, comprising:
obtaining information about a biometric part of a user's body;
obtaining additional information; and
forming a cryptographic key based on both said biometric information and said
additional information.

23. (Original) A method as in claim 22 wherein said forming comprises
determining ratios between different portions of said biometric information.

24. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 22 further comprising
entering a plurality of different biometric features in a sequence, an order of the
sequence forming ~~the code~~ a part of said cryptographic key.

25. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 22 wherein the
supplemental information includes an angle of a line ~~used to obtain the information~~
along which biometric information is sampled.
